1. *Pius XII , Saint or Enabler?-****Thursday 4/5 (H day)***

The Roman Catholic Church under John Paul II began the process to beatify and thereafter march to Sainthood, Pope Pius XII. Many people, both Catholic and otherwise, feel that Pius’ actions prior to (in his position as Cardinal) and during WWII failed to proactively deal with Adolf Hitler, specifically and fascism generally. Some believe that Pius harbored strong anti-semitic feelings and therefore was reluctant to act, others argue that his ability to act was limited by external factors, and still others argue that Pius primary concern was to stem the communist movement. On the other hand some argue that Pius was a moral beacon during the War and saved 1000s of lives. The argument about Pius’ role and the Church’s attempts to venerate him have created rifts within the Church as well as between the Church and non-Catholics.

**Resolve, Pope Pius XII actions prior to and during WW2 were such that it is inappropriate for the Roman Catholic Church to venerate him as a Saint**

1. *Was the Fall of Communism a consequence of 40+yrs of containment and Communism’s weak infrastructure or did the conservative leadership of the 1980s cause its downfall?-* ***Thursday, April 12, period 5, Friday April 13, period 1***

Did the conservative turn of the West under Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and Helmut Kohl cause the destruction of Communism in East Europe and the Soviet Union or was it an evolutionary process that was destined to end? From George Kennan’s containment doctrine, the Cuban Missile Crisis to détente in the 1960s and 70s followed by Carter’s build up after the Afghanistan conflict, the West sought to limit, and at times, push back the Communist movement. They had some success, however, in the 1980s a group of more conservative leaders were elected in the West and in November of 1989 the Berlin Wall fell. Should this success be primarily attributed to the leaders of the 1980s or was the handwriting on the wall and Communism in the east was destined to implode?

**Resolve,**

**The quick collapse of Communism in the late 80s was primarily due to the policies of the conservative leaders of that decade.**

1. *The European Union- DOA or alive and kicking?****Wed. 4/25, both classes***

The European Unions started as a bilateral German – French agreement in the early 1950s; it later expanded and became known as the Common Market increasing in size from six members to approximately 30. After Maastricht, the now named European Union entered on a program towards monetary union and later political integration. In most recent years there have been serious setbacks, both in terms of political union(as several members have failed to ratify the European Union’s Constitution) and monetary union (as some countries have had suffered grave economic difficulties).

**Resolve**

**While the European Union is currently under incredible political and economic stress, it will survive these events and become a stronger and more unified body**